

Pulsar Planning Update

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(w/ thanks to Dave Thompson)

Basic challenge

- Goal: fold time-tagged GLAST photons at pulsar period
- Obstacle: pulsar period varies
 - deterministically because of spin-down, binary motion, and observatory motion
 - unpredictably because of “timing noise” and discrete “glitches”
- Plan:
 - monitor radio pulsars over GLAST life
 - provide mean parameters and piecewise polynomial fit to pulsar phase (collectively, an “ephemeris”)

Pulsar catalog

- Most recent published catalog: 558 pulsars (1993)
- Just over 700 pulsars in Princeton catalog available at <http://pulsar.ucolick.org/>
- Parkes survey
 - Over 600 pulsars found so far
 - About 220 are “published” with another 150 “in prep”
 - 519 currently available from ATNF web site (and from HEASARC)
- Some sources found in various other surveys

Old catalog format


```
@-----
PSRB      0531+21                sr68                PSRJ 0534+2200
RAB       05:31:31.405          5                mc71
DECB      +21:58:54.39          6                mc71
PMRA      -12                   3                wm77
PMDEC     5                     4
POSEPOCH          40675
P          0.0334033474094 2                lp92
Pdot      420.9599              2
F2         9.76E-21             7
PEPOCH    48743.0
DM         56.791               1                cr71
RM        -42.3                 5                man72
We         1.2                  rcc+70
W50        3.0                  lylg95
W10        4.7                  lylg95
S400       646                  70                lylg95
S1400      14                   3                lylg95
Dmin       1.5                  tri68
Dmax       2.5                  tri68
DIST       2.0
NOTE      GS In the Crab Nebula; has glitches and large timing noise
NOTE      GS $\ddot{\nu}=(9.76\pm0.07)\times10^{-21}\text{ s}^{-3}$
TYPE      I H
Tau       -5.82                 cwb85
S600      211                   37                lylg95
S925      45                    10                lylg95
@-----
```

Need for a new catalog format

- Old format:
 - difficult to maintain, especially as number of pulsars and file size grows
 - difficult to extract data except with very customized software
 - difficult to extend (must add new parameter names)
 - impossible to include other information of interest, e.g.:
 - pulsar integrated profile data
 - multiple timing ephemeris blocks
 - old measurements (often useful for statistical work)

UCSC catalog format

```
<pulsar jname="0534+2200" bname="0531+21" discovered="sr68" glitched="true" snr="true">
<g name="position" frame="B" epoch="40675" cite="mcn71">
  <p name="ra" value="05:31:31.405" error="5" />
  <p name="dec" value="+21:58:54.39" error="6" /></g>
<g name="pm" cite="wm77">
  <p name="pmra" value="-12" error="3" />
  <p name="pmdec" value="5" error="4" /></g>
<g name="period" epoch="48743.0" cite="lp92">
  <p name="p" value="0.0334033474094" error="2" />
  <p name="pdot" value="420.9599" error="2" />
  <p name="f2" value="9.76E-21" error="7" /></g>
<p name="dm" value="56.791" error="1" cite="cr71" />
<p name="rm" value="-42.3" error="5" cite="man72" />
<p name="tau" value="-5.82" cite="cwb85" />
<p name="dmin" value="1.5" cite="tri68" />
<p name="dmax" value="2.5" cite="tri68" />
<p name="assocdist" value="2.0" />
<p name="flux" frequency="400" value="646" error="70" cite="lylg95" />
<p name="flux" frequency="600" value="211" error="37" cite="lylg95" />
<p name="flux" frequency="925" value="45" error="10" cite="lylg95" />
<p name="flux" frequency="1400" value="14" error="3" cite="lylg95" />
<p name="w10" value="4.7" cite="lylg95" />
<p name="w50" value="3.0" cite="lylg95" />
<p name="we" value="1.2" cite="rcc+70" />
<note>$\ddot{\nu}=(9.76\pm0.07)\times10^{-21}\text{,}\,\text{\$s\$}^{-3}\text{\$}</note>
</pulsar>
```



logically grouped
parameters are structurally
grouped

attributes keep track
of qualifying information

Advantages of new format

- Standard XML can be easily read and manipulated from any programming language (with right style sheet can even be displayed directly in browser)
- New parameters easily added:

```
<p name="glastflux" value="?e??" error="1" cite="abc+06" />
```
- New data types easily added:

```
<profile freq="430">2.3,5.4,...,2.2</profile>
```
- Note: “cite” in both old and new catalog is index into BibTeX database (stored at UCSC, but updated worldwide) with bibliography data for over 5280 pulsar-related references

Pulsar parameters

- Basic timing parameters (spin-down rate, etc.) needed to estimate pulsar ages, magnetic fields, and spin-down luminosities have either been measured or are being measured (for Parkes pulsars)
- Biggest uncertainty relevant for GLAST is distance estimation
 - Two new efforts to build Galactic dispersion model (Cordes and Lazio, and Gomez, Benjamin, and Cox)
 - Major new push on pulsar parallax measurements (we now get to 0.1 mas or better for bright pulsars, so can do meaningful distances to a few kpc)

Ephemeris calculation

- Radio timing data is reduced to ephemeris estimate using the standard TEMPO software package
- Current plan is to provide GLAST with “GRO format” data (example from Andrew Lyne):

```
0531+21  05 34 31.972  22 00 52.07 52487 52518 52502.000000366  29.8151800347813 -  
3.73834D-10  -7.67D-20  3.4 J    DE200 0531+21  
0531+21  05 34 31.972  22 00 52.07 52518 52548 52533.000000117  29.8141787457896 -  
3.73810D-10   1.65D-20  0.7 J    DE200 0531+21  
0531+21  05 34 31.972  22 00 52.07 52548 52577 52562.000000063  29.8132421570543 -  
3.73778D-10   3.76D-20  0.6 J    DE200 0531+21  
0531+21  05 34 31.972  22 00 52.07 52580 52610 52595.000000258  29.8121765140558 -  
3.73761D-10  -7.19D-21  1.5 J    DE200 0531+21  
0531+21  05 34 31.972  22 00 52.07 52609 52640 52624.000000157  29.8112400629906 -  
3.73735D-10   2.91D-21  0.6 J    DE200 0531+21
```

Observing plans

- Still rather unclear
- Most pulsars are either
 - in the north, where facilities are reasonably abundant,
 - “quiet” enough that very frequent timing is unnecessary,
 - and/or distant/old enough that chances of a GLAST detection are small
- Some others (e.g., Vela) are observed regularly with small telescopes
- *probably*, most of what GLAST wants/needs will be doable with fairly small incremental effort

Pulsar advisory group

- Group established to plan observing strategy and make recommendations to mission for needed support or special coordination requirements
- Current membership:
 - Dick Manchester, Matthew Bailes (Parkes)
 - Andrew Lyne (Jodrell)
 - Don Backer (ATA)
 - David Nice (Green Bank, EGRET experience)
 - Roger Romani (theory)
 - Maura McLaughlin (population modeling)
 - Dave Thompson (GLAST)

Schedule

- Catalog: After Parkes survey publications are finished, a combined catalog will be published and made available on web
- Data formats: discussions will continue between pulsar community and science support center (and NRAO for EVLA effort), but main interface format (ephemeris file) probably done
- Observing: discussions over next year should help identify key issues; regular observations don't need to begin until around start of 2006